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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/844,938	04/27/2001	Erik K. Karell	60426-218;2000P09005US01	2261
24500	7590	05/10/2004	EXAMINER	
SIEMENS CORPORATION INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW DEPARTMENT 170 WOOD AVENUE SOUTH ISELIN, NJ 08830			TA, THO DAC	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2833	

DATE MAILED: 05/10/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/844,938	KARELL, ERIK K.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Tho D. Ta	2833	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 February 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. In view of the Appeal Brief filed on 02/13/04, PROSECUTION IS HEREBY REOPENED. A new ground of rejection is set forth below.

To avoid abandonment of the application, appellant must exercise one of the following two options:

(1) file a reply under 37 CFR 1.111 (if this Office action is non-final) or a reply under 37 CFR 1.113 (if this Office action is final); or,

(2) request reinstatement of the appeal.

If reinstatement of the appeal is requested, such request must be accompanied by a supplemental appeal brief, but no new amendments, affidavits (37 CFR 1.130, 1.131 or 1.132) or other evidence are permitted. See 37 CFR 1.193(b)(2).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Romann et al. (5,584,704) in view of Murakami (5,137,468).

In regard to claims 1 and 2, Romann et al. discloses a fuel injector assembly, comprising: a body portion 2 that houses fuel injector components (this feature is seen to be an inherent teaching of that device since it is apparent that some type of components must be present in the body portion 2 for the fuel injector assembly to

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function as intended); an electrical interface portion 10 supported by the body portion 2; and at least one connector means 9 supported on the interface portion 10 (column 4, lines 13-15), the connector means 9 electrically couple the electrical interface portion 10 to the electrical conductor 5.

However, Romann et al. does not disclose that the connector means 9 supported on the interface portion 10 (column 4, lines 13-15) is a deformable connector means; wherein the deformable connector means having at least one edge for piercing and penetrating through an insulation covering on an electrical conductor 5 to thereby electrically couple the electrical interface portion 10 to the electrical conductor 5; and wherein the deformable connector means includes a plurality of connector members, each comprising a barb of flexible metal material.

Murakami teaches a deformable connector means which provides more reliable mechanical and electrical connection (column 2, lines 14-20); wherein the deformable connector means having at least one edge 3a for piercing and penetrating through an insulation 8 covering on an electrical conductor 7 to thereby electrically couple the electrical interface portion 2 to the electrical conductor 7; and wherein the deformable connector means includes a plurality of connector members, each comprising a barb 3a of flexible metal material.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the invention of Romann et al. by constructing the connector means 9 as taught by Murakami in order to provide more reliable mechanical and electrical connection to the fuel injector assembly.

In regard to claim 3, Romann et al. as modified by Murakami has been discussed above. Romann et al. discloses that the electrical interface portion 10 at least partially extends outwardly and away (in a vertical direction with respect to Fig. 6) from the body portion 2 and the connector member 9 is outside of the body portion 2.

In regard to claims 4, 5 and 11, Romann et al. discloses a fuel injector assembly, comprising: a body portion 2 that houses fuel injector components (this feature is seen to be an inherent teaching of that device since it is apparent that some type of components must be present in the body portion 2 for the fuel injector assembly to function as intended); an electrical interface portion 10 supported by the body portion 2; at least one connector member 9 supported on the interface portion 10 (column 4, lines13-15) for making electrical contact with the electrical conductor 5.

However, Romann et al. does not disclose that the connector means 9 supported on the interface portion 10 (column 4, lines13-15) is a deformable connector means; wherein the deformable connector means having at least one edge for piercing and penetrating through an insulation covering on an electrical conductor 5 to thereby electrically couple the electrical interface portion 10 to the electrical conductor 5; and wherein the deformable connector means includes a plurality of connector members, each comprising a barb of flexible metal material.

Murakami teaches a deformable connector means which provides more reliable mechanical and electrical connection (column 2, lines 14-20); wherein the deformable

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connector means having at least one edge 3a for piercing and penetrating through an insulation 8 covering on an electrical conductor 7 to thereby electrically couple the electrical interface portion 2 to the electrical conductor 7; and wherein the deformable connector means includes a plurality of connector members, each comprising a barb 3a of flexible metal material.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the invention of Romann et al. by constructing the connector means 9 as taught by Murakami in order to provide more reliable mechanical and electrical connection to the fuel injector assembly.

In regard to claim 6, Romann et al. as modified by Murakami has been discussed above. Romann et al. discloses a securing member 3 placed over the conductor 5 and the connector member 9.

In regard to claim 7, Romann et al. as modified by Murakami has been discussed above. Romann et al. discloses that the securing member 3 comprises plastic that is molded over the conductor 1 and the connector member 9 (column 6, lines 25-29).

In regard to claim 8, Romann et al. as modified by Murakami has been discussed above. Romann et al. discloses that the securing member 3 comprises a seal (this feature is inherent due to the overmold).

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In regard to claim 9, Romann et al. as modified by Murakami has been discussed above. Romann et al. discloses that the securing member 3 comprises a plastic material.

In regard to claim 10, Romann et al. as modified by Murakami has been discussed above. Romann et al. discloses that the conductor 5 comprises a flexible conductor cable 1.

In regard to claims 12-14, Romann et al. discloses a method of making an electrically conductive connection between an electrical interface 10 on a fuel injector that has at least one connector member 9 and an electrical conductor 5, comprising the steps of positioning a portion of the conductor 5 near the connector member 9; and establishing an electrically conductive connection between the electrical interface 10 and the conductor 5.

However, Romann et al. does not disclose the steps of deforming the connector member 9 to pierce through an insulation covering on the conductor, the step of crimping the deformable member 9 onto the conductor 5, and the step of at least partially penetrating the conductor 5 with a portion of the connector member 9 to establish an electrically conductive coupling through the deformable connector member 9.

Murakami teaches the step of deforming the connector member 1a to pierce through an insulation covering on the conductor 7, the step of crimping the deformable

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member 3a onto the conductor 7, and the step of at least partially penetrating the conductor 7 with a portion of the connector member 1a to establish an electrically conductive coupling through the deformable connector member 3a in order to provide more reliable mechanical and electrical connection (column 2, lines 14-20).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the invention of Romann et al. by constructing the connector means 9 as taught by Murakami in order to provide more reliable mechanical and electrical connection to the fuel injector assembly.

In regard to claim 15, Romann et al. as modified by Murakami has been discussed above. Romann et al. discloses the step of covering the connector member 9 and an associated portion of the conductor 5 after performing the establishing the electrical connection step (column 6, lines 25-29).

In regard to claim 16, Romann et al. as modified by Murakami has been discussed above. Romann et al. discloses the step of molding a plastic material onto the connector member 9 and the associated portion of the conductor 5 (column 6, lines 25-29).

In regard to claim 17, Romann et al. as modified by Murakami has been discussed above. Romann et al. discloses a step of placing a seal 3 over the connector member 9 and the associated portion of the conductor 5.

In regard to claims 18, 19, Romann et al. as modified by Murakami has been discussed above. Romann et al. discloses that the plurality of connector members 9 make electrical contact with a single electrical conductor 5a-5e.

In regard to claim 20, Romann et al. as modified by Murakami has been discussed above. Romann et al. discloses that the conductor 5 comprises a flex cable.

In regard to claim 21, Romann et al. as modified by Murakami has been discussed above. Romann et al. discloses that the connector means 9 establishes a mechanical connection between the interface portion 10 and the conductor 5 (see fig. 5).

In regard to claims 22, 23, Romann et al. as modified by Murakami has been discussed above. Romann discloses that the connector means 9 establishes a physical connection between the interface portion 10 and the conductor 5 (see fig. 5).

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-23 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

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Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tho D. Ta whose telephone number is (571) 272-2014. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00-5:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on (571) 272-2800 ext 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

tdt
04/27/2004


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